

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Masaya Yamamoto (Reg. No. 60,391) on 1 August 2010.

This application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 18, 36 and 38 – 40.

Replace claim 1, 19, 35, 37 and 41 as follows.

CLAIM 1:

A content playback device for decrypting encrypted content recorded on a non-transitory computer readable recording medium and playing back the decrypted content, comprising:

a read unit operable to read media information unique to the recording medium, from the recording medium;

a judgment unit operable to acquire, from a source other than the recording medium, contract information relating to a contract for use of the encrypted content, and judge, based on the acquired contract information, whether the encrypted content is permitted to be used;

a reception unit operable to receive a designation of the encrypted content;

 an acquisition unit operable to acquire protection method information showing one of a first protection method and a second protection method that is used for protecting the encrypted content;

 a generation unit operable to generate a content key, corresponding to the acquired protection method information, based on the read media information and the acquired contract information, if the encrypted content is judged as being permitted to be used;

 a decryption unit operable to read the encrypted content from the recording medium, and decrypt the encrypted content using the generated content key; and

 a playback unit operable to play back the decrypted content, wherein the encrypted content includes at least first-type encrypted content that is protected by the first protection method and a second-type encrypted content that is protected by the second protection method different from the first protection method, wherein a content identifier of the encrypted content and associated key type information including at least one of a media key and license key is included in each of said protection method information so as to generate an appropriate content key.

CLAIM 19:

The content playback device of claim 19 2, wherein the first ...

CLAIM 35:

A content playback method for use in a content playback device for decrypting encrypted content recorded on a non-transitory computer readable recording medium and playing back the decrypted content, comprising using a processor to perform the steps of:

reading media information unique to the computer readable recording medium, from the computer readable recording medium;

acquiring, from a source other than the computer readable recording medium, contract information relating to a contract for use of the encrypted content, and judging, based on the acquired contract information, whether the encrypted content is permitted to be used;

receiving a designation of the encrypted content;

acquiring protection method information showing one of a first protection method and a second protection method that is used for protecting the encrypted content;

generating a content key, corresponding to the acquired protection method information, based on the read media information and the acquired contract information, if the encrypted content is judged as being permitted to be used;

reading the encrypted content from the computer readable recording medium, and decrypting the encrypted content using the generated content key; and

playing back the decrypted content, wherein

the encrypted content includes at least first-type encrypted content that is protected by the first protection method and second-type encrypted content that is protected by the second protection method different from the first protection method, wherein a content identifier of the encrypted content and associated key type information including at least one of a media key and license key is included in each of said protection method information so as to generate an appropriate content key.

CLAIM 37:

A computer program used in a computer for decrypting encrypted content recorded on a recording medium and playing back the decrypted content, the computer program stored in a

non-transitory computer readable storage medium, wherein the computer program, when executed, causes the computer to perform steps of:

reading media information unique to the recording medium, from the recording medium; acquiring, from a source other than the recording medium, contract information relating to a contract for use of the encrypted content, and judging, based on the acquired contract information, whether the encrypted content is permitted to be used;

receiving a designation of the encrypted content;

acquiring protection method information showing one of a first protection method and a second protection method that is used for protecting the encrypted content;

generating a content key, corresponding to the acquired protection method information, based on the read media information and the acquired contract information, if the encrypted content is judged as being permitted to be used;

reading the encrypted content from the recording medium, and decrypting the encrypted content using the generated content key; and

playing back the decrypted content, wherein

the encrypted content includes at least first-type encrypted content that is protected by the first protection method and second-type encrypted content that is protected by the second protection method different from the first protection method, wherein a content identifier of the encrypted content and associated key type information including at least one of a media key and license key is included in each of said protection method information so as to generate an appropriate content key.

CLAIM 41:

A non-transitory computer readable recording medium storing having instructions executed upon access by a processor, results in a machine performing the functions of: first-encrypted-content protected by a first protection method and protection method information showing the first protection method, in correspondence with each other, and second-encrypted-content protected by a second protection method different from the first protection method and protection method information showing the second protection method, in correspondence with each other.

acquiring, from a source other than the computer readable recording medium, contract information relating to a contract for use of an encrypted content, and judging, based on the acquired contract information, whether the encrypted content is permitted to be used;

receiving a designation of the encrypted content;

acquiring protection method information showing one of a first protection method and a second protection method that is used for protecting the encrypted content;

generating a content key, corresponding to the acquired protection method information, based on the read media information and the acquired contract information, if the encrypted content is judged as being permitted to be used;

reading the encrypted content from the computer readable recording medium, and decrypting the encrypted content using the generated content key, and

playing back the decrypted content, wherein

the encrypted content includes at least first-type encrypted content that is protected by the first protection method and second-type encrypted content that is protected by the second protection method different from the first protection method, wherein a content identifier of the encrypted content and associated key type information including at least one of a media key

and license key is included in each of said protection method information so as to generate an appropriate content key.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 – 17, 19 – 35, 37 and 41 – 42 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Art) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations recited in claims 1, 35, 37 and 41 (& associated dependent claims).

Claims 1 – 17, 19 – 35, 37 and 41 – 42 are allowable in light of the Applicant's arguments and in light of the prior art made of record and Examiner Amendment.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LONGBIT CHAI whose telephone number is (571)272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William R. Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Longbit Chai/

Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2431
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